



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
BUREAU OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT
WATER OBSTRUCTION AND ENCROACHMENT

Bog Turtle Habitat Screening

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Department of Environmental Protection State Programmatic General Permit/Water Obstruction and Encroachment General Permit

Federal/State Screening Process for Bog Turtles (*Clemmys muhlenbergii*) and/or their habitat in Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, and York counties.

In 1974 the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, under Section 2305 of the Fish and Boat Code, listed the bog turtle as an endangered species, and in 1997 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, listed the bog turtle as a threatened species. Poaching and loss of habitat are two primary reasons for the decline in turtle populations throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region.

The 4-inch bog turtle's preferred wetland habitat is spring seeps and open marshy meadows in the valleys of southcentral and eastern Pennsylvania. Here the water is slow moving and the earth is mucky. Mucky soils provide cover for the turtles in spring and summer. October through April, the turtles use the same mucky soils as a place to hibernate. Plants common to these wetland areas include cattails, rushes, jewelweed, skunk cabbage, sedges, and sphagnum moss.

In order to provide continued protection for the turtle and to minimize conflicts during project development and permitting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and PA Department of Environmental Protection have developed a screening process to identify potential bog turtle habitat. Representatives of these agencies will provide on-site technical assistance to determine if proposed projects may impact wetlands which serve as bog turtle habitat.

This special screening process is only required for those activities which will impact wetlands in the counties listed above. If your proposed activity does not impact wetlands in these counties, you may proceed with the registration of the general permit without this screening process.

INSTRUCTIONS

If your proposed project includes a **wetland impact** in one of the fourteen counties listed above, follow the steps below prior to submitting the General Permit Registration form.

1. Using the primary contact list on the next page, identify the primary contact for your county where the wetland impact will take place.
2. Complete the attached form to provide driving directions, a project description, and a sketch or a plan detailing the proposed project. In addition, include a copy of a USGS quadrangle showing your project location, the agencies will be able to conduct a threatened and endangered species review for your project prior to the site visit which may also expedite your permit registration process. Submit this information by fax or mail to the primary contact to request a field view to screen for potential bog turtle habitat.
3. The agency representative will contact you to schedule an on-site assessment of the wetlands for bog turtle habitat. They will complete the bog turtle habitat screening form, sign it, and explain the results to you. You do not have to be present during the field view.
4. If it is determined that the project area (which includes the direct and indirect impact area) does not contain potential bog turtle habitat, submit the completed bog turtle habitat screening form provided to you along with the remainder of the information required by the general permit registration package, including the General Permit Registration form, to the appropriate Regional Office or Delegated County Conservation District for processing.

5. If it is determined that the project area (which includes the direct and indirect impact area) is potential bog turtle habitat, the agency representative will discuss your options with you. These may include moving the project to an alternate location, contacting a professional bog turtle surveyor, or consulting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Neither a state general permit nor a federal State Programmatic General Permit can be registered without the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clearing the potential bog turtle conflict.
6. If you cannot avoid the impacts to bog turtle habitat, an Individual Chapter 105 and Section 404 Permit Application will be required for processing, public notice, and review. An application does not guarantee permit approval.
7. If you have any questions specific to this process, please contact the appropriate agency representative for your county.

PRIMARY CONTACT LIST BY COUNTY

Adams County

Debby Nizer
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore Dist., Regulatory Branch, PA Section
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Phone: 410-962-1846
Fax: 410-962-2024

Cumberland, Lebanon Counties

John Gible
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Carlisle Regulatory Field Office
401 East Louther Street, Suite 205
Carlisle, PA 17013
Phone: 717-249-0425
Fax: 717-240-0523

Lancaster County

Pat Strong
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Baltimore Dist., Regulatory Branch, PA Section
P. O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715
Phone: 410-962-1846
Fax: 410-962-2024

Monroe County

Victor Motts
Monroe County Conservation District
8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360-8841
Phone: 570-629-3060
Fax: 570-629-3063

Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery Counties

Dick Hassel
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia Dist., Regulatory Branch
Wanamaker Building
100 Pen Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3390
Phone: 215-656-6726
Fax: 215-656-6724

Franklin County

Bonnie Crosby
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
315 South Allen St., Suite 322
State College, PA 16801
Phone: 814-234-4090
Fax: 814-234-0748

Lehigh, Northampton County

Jared Brandwein
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Tobyhanna Army Depot
11 Hap Arnold Boulevard
Box H
Tobyhanna, PA 18466-0080
Phone: 570-894-1275
Fax: 570-894-1281

York County

Mike Danko
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers
Carlisle Regulatory Field Office
401 East Louther Street, Suite 205
Carlisle, PA 17013
Phone: 717-249-0425
Fax: 717-240-0523

If you have more general questions or need information on permitting please contact the appropriate DEP Regional Office listed below.

DEP
Northeast Regional Office
2 Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711-0790
570-826-5485

Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton
Counties

DEP
Southcentral Regional Office
909 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110
717-705-4707

Adams, Berks, Cumberland, Franklin,
Lancaster, Lebanon, and York Counties

DEP
Southeast Regional Office
Lee Park, Suite 6010
555 North Lane
Conshohocken, PA 19428
610-832-6130

Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and
Montgomery Counties

SPECIAL BOG TURTLE HABITAT SCREENING**U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS/DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE PROGRAMMATIC GENERAL PERMIT/WATER OBSTRUCTION AND
ENCROACHMENT GENERAL PERMIT****APPLICANT INFORMATION**

Applicant Name _____

Mailing Address _____ Telephone (____) _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP+4 _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Name _____

County _____ Municipality _____

Which general permit(s) are you planning to register? GP-5 ☐ GP-6 ☐ GP-7 ☐ GP-8 ☐ GP-9 ☐

Detailed Written Directions to Project _____

Briefly Describe Your Project: _____

_____**SIGNATURE**

I hereby grant permission for representatives of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers or other authorized screening representative to inspect the project site as necessary in order to perform the requested habitat determination.

Signature_____
Date

On the reverse side of this page, prepare a sketch showing your project, the wetlands, and all proposed impacts.

Applicant Name

BOG TURTLE HABITAT - SKETCH PLAN

To ensure the sketch plan is complete, include the following on the site plan in the **immediate vicinity of the project**.
(√ all that apply)

YES	N/A		YES	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Impacts with Dimensions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Name _____
		Total Length _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Chapter 93 Stream Designation _____
		Total sq. ft. _____			
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Location of Property Lines Relative to the Project
		Total _____ sq. ft.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wetland Acreage Onsite _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stream Limits and Flow Direction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Existing Buildings, Roadways, Other Structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Floodway Limits (if known)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proposed Buildings, Roadways, Other Structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Limits of Earth Disturbance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Waters (i.e. pond, lakes)
		Associated with this Activity			

Scale 1" = _____ ft.